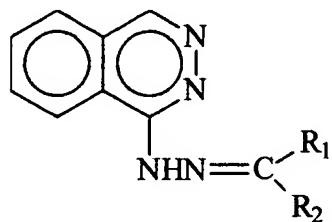
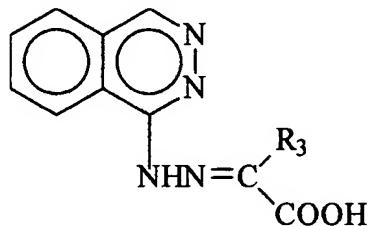


1. (Amended) A method of improving the stability of a hydralazine composition during manufacturing or storage comprising coupling an N-protecting group with hydralazine to produce a compound having the formula:



or a compound having the formula:



where R_1 and R_2 are independently H, substituted or unsubstituted branched or straight chain alkyl having from 1 to about 7 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkylcycloalkyl, lower alkenyl or R_1 and R_2 together form part of a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl having from about 4 of about 7 carbon atoms; where R_3 is a branched or straight chain alkyl having from 1 to about 7 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkylcycloalkyl or a group having the formula $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ where n is from 1 to about 7; and

wherein said N-protecting group is labile and is removed from said compound after manufacturing or storage and prior to administration of said compound to a patient.